

## Message Text

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22

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

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R 032131Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9963

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 8245

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DERWINSKI, EDWARD J.)

SUBJECT: CODEL DERWINSKI

REF: PANAMA 8007

1. CONGRESSMAN EDWARD J. DERWINSKI (R-ILL.) ARRIVED IN PANAMA AT 7:40 P.M. NOVEMBER 28 AND DEPARTED AT 10:30 A.M. DECEMBER 1. HE WAS INTERESTED IN A VARIETY OF MATTERS ARISING IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS--INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE.

2. DERWINSKI RECEIVED INFORMAL BRIEFINGS FROM THE EMBASSY, THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY/GOVERNMENT AND SOUTHCOM. HE MADE CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD; FERNANDO MANFREDO, MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY; CARLOT LOPEZ-GUEVARA, PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR; AND ERWNESTO PEREZ BALLADARES, MEMBER OF THE

PANAMANIAN LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION. HE ALSO HELD A LENGTHY SESSION WITH CANAL ZONE LABOR LEADERS--AFGE, STATE/COUNTY/MINICIPAL, ETC. AT SEPARATE DINNERS HE MET PROMINENT PANAMANIAN (EDWARD MORGAN, JR., ROBERTO GONZALEZ-REVILLA AND FLAVIO VELASQUEZ) AND CANAL ZONE CIVIC LEADERS (RICHARD CHEVILLE, A PHYSIC AN WITH ZONE SCHOOLS, AND WILLIAM DUNN OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMPTORLLER OFFICE). STEPHEN THOMAS, MANAGER OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO HERE, GAVE A LUNCH IN DERWINSKI'S HONOR. SEVERAL U.S. BANKERS AND BUSINESSMEN ATTENDED.

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3. CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI WAS ACCOMPANIED ON ALL HIS CALLS BY TED KAZY AND JOSEPH FISHER OF THE POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE STAFF. WHERE APPROPRIATE, EMBASSY OFFICERS ALSO ACCOMPANIED THE CONGRESSMAN. GOVERNOR PARFITT AND ACTING SOUTHCOM CINC MAJOR GENERAL BREEDLOVE WERE AMONG THOSE WHO BRIEFED DERWINSKI DURING HIS HALF DAY IN THE ZONE.

4. A FEW OF THE LABOR LEADERS WITH WHOM THE CONGRESSMAN SPOKE ISSUED (LARGELY SELF-SERVING) PRESS RELEASES WHICH WERE PICKED UP IN THE PANAMA PAPERS. COPIES OF THESE ARTICLES WILL BE FORWARDED TO ARA/PAN (GUTHRIE) FOR POSSIBLE FORWARDING TO CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI.

5. THE EMBASSY AND OTHER OFFICIAL AMERICANS BENEFITED FROM THE VISIT, ESPECIALLY FROM HIS VIEWS OF CONGRESS'S ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CANAL ISSUE. PANAMANIAN'S PROFITED FROM THE VISIT FOR ESSENTIALLY THE SAME REASON. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO BENEFITED--BY GETTING AN ON-THE-SCENE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PANAMANIAN PROBLEM.  
GONZALEZ

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